

CELEBRATE CCC
ANNIVERSARY AT
WILDLIFE REFUGE

U. S. Biological Survey
Congratulates Boys
on "Good Job."

CCC boys, developing the Cape Romain Migratory Bird Refuge in Charleston County, South Carolina, are making an invaluable contribution to the national wildlife restoration program, says Dr. Ira N. Gabrielson, Chief of the U. S. Biological Survey. His congratulations to the camp personnel came on the fifth anniversary of the CCC.

The Cape Romain camp is joining others throughout the nation this week (March 31 to April 5) in celebrating the anniversary and invites the public to visit the camp during an "open house" celebration on (insert date) to see the progress being made at this South Carolina wildlife refuge. Here the CCC boys, under the direction of the Biological Survey, are working to improve the sanctuary as they are in 31 other camps on refuges over the United States. They are making the refuges easier to administer and more attractive to wildlife.

"CCC boys," says Dr. Gabrielson, "are familiar figures in many localities. The public, by becoming acquainted with them and their work, can see the beneficial effect camp training has in preparing them for good citizenship. It also learns of their valuable contribution to the wildlife program."

Cape Romain Refuge, extending for more than 20 miles along the coast of South Carolina, lies a short ways northeast of Charleston. It is an area of salt marsh, mud flats and low marshy scrub studded islands separated by winding creeks and tide channels. Here the CCC boys have been improving one of the finest natural waterfowl areas on the Atlantic Coast.

Work at Cape Romain began May 26, 1936 with help obtained from a Forest Service Camp. On October 14, 1937, a CCC camp was established on historic Bull's Island, once inhabited by pirates. The CCC boys have made surveys, constructed necessary refuge buildings, built seven miles of truck trail and marked boundaries of the refuge.

A dam on Bull's Island excludes salt tides from the basin formed by a creek. It adds approximately one thousand acres to the eight hundred already in fresh water pond and marsh which is so necessary to certain types of wildlife.

Boat channels have been dredged by CCC labor, bulkheads built and a water-control structure erected. Twelve acres of undesirable growth, mostly cattails, that choked ponds, have been eradicated.

Many species of waterfowl come to the Cape Romain Refuge yearly. The great blue herons, brown pelicans, American egrets, snowy herons, oyster catchers, laughing and ring bill gull as well as the royal tern are found on the sanctuary. It is a winter haven for ducks and a permanent home for wild turkey, deer and otter.

Loggerhead or giant sea turtles lay their eggs in the warm sands on the ocean side of Raccoon Key and Cape Island at the northeast end of the refuge. As many as 600 turtle nests have been counted in one year. In consequence of such an abundance of wildlife, Cape Romain is one of the most important sanctuaries on the Atlantic coast. CCC improvements are increasing its value.

"The accomplishments of the camp at Cape Romain," says Dr. Gabrielson, "make it additionally attractive to waterfowl and other wildlife. The work will serve as a lasting monument to the CCC. Five years ago when our wildlife resources, especially waterfowl, were in serious danger, the Biological Survey had a restoration program. It lacked the man power to carry it out. Then emergency funds for buying refuges became available; CCC help developed the refuges. This was indeed a happy coincidence as the accomplishments on record today were only dreamed of five years ago."